

Snout $2\frac{1}{5}$ -3 in the length of head, diameter of eye $3-3\frac{1}{3}$, interorbital width $3\frac{1}{3}-3\frac{1}{2}$, depth of præorbital $3-3\frac{1}{3}$. Maxillary not extending to below the eye; jaws equal anteriorly; fold of the lower lip continuous; cheek with 5 to 7 series of scales; præoperculum scaleless; 2 or 3 gill-rakers on the upper part of the anterior arch, 7 to 9 on the lower. Scales $29-30\frac{4-4\frac{1}{2}}{10-11}$, 2 between lateral line and anterior rays of soft dorsal, those of the thoracic region very small. Dorsal XIII-XIV 10-11 (12), commencing above the opercular cleft, the spines subequal from the fourth, the last $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of head or more. Anal III 8-9. Dorsal and anal fins scaleless. Pectoral longer than the head, extending to above the anal spines. Caudal slightly emarginate. Caudal peduncle longer than deep. Brownish; a blackish vertical stripe through the eye; sometimes a dark blotch on the middle of the side; membrane between first 4 or 5 dorsal spines blackish at the tip; middle of caudal with dark cross-bars.

R. Amazon.

1-3. (81-101 mm.)

3. (102 mm.)

Obidos.

L. Hyanuary.

Prof. A. Agassiz.

Mus. Comp. Zool.

LXXV.—*Descriptions of Four new Loricariid Fishes of the Genus Plecostomus from Brazil.* By RUDOLF VON IHERING.

THE fishes described below were brought by me from the Museo Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil, for comparison with the specimens preserved in the Natural History Museum. In writing these descriptions I have been helped by advice from Mr. C. Tate Regan, who has also kindly given me his authority that the species are distinct from those described by him in his Monograph of the Loricariidae.

Plecostomus Regani.

Depth of body $4\frac{1}{2}-4\frac{3}{4}$ in the length, length of head $3\frac{1}{3}$. Depth of head $1\frac{2}{3}$ in its length, breadth of head $1\frac{1}{6}$, length of snout $1\frac{3}{4}$, diameter of eye $5\frac{1}{2}-6$, interorbital width $2\frac{1}{2}-2\frac{3}{4}$. Length of mandibular ramus 2 in the interorbital width. Barbel $\frac{2}{4}$ the diameter of eye. Snout broad, rounded. Supra-orbital margins not raised, supraoccipital with a very slight median elevation; temporal plates not carinate. Scutes spinulose, the anterior ones of the two upper series weakly

carinate; 29 in a longitudinal series, 7-8 between dorsal and adipose fin, 16 between anal and caudal. Supraoccipital entirely bordered posteriorly by a single scute. Lower surface of head and abdomen completely covered with small granular scales, except for a median naked area behind the lower lip. Dorsal I 7, the first ray nearly as long as the distance from its base to the tip of snout, when laid back extending to the adipose fin; last ray $\frac{1}{2}$ as long as the first. Length of base of dorsal equal to its distance from the posterior part of the spine of the adipose fin. Anal I 4. Pectoral spine extending to anterior $\frac{1}{3}$ of ventral or a little beyond. Caudal moderately emarginate, the lower lobe the longer. Caudal peduncle $2\frac{3}{4}$ -3 as long as deep. Some rather small light spots on the upper part of head and body; dorsal brownish, with light spots posteriorly.

Two specimens, 205 and 275 mm. in total length, from the Rio Piracicaba, São Paulo, Brazil. This species is allied to *P. alatus*, Casteln.

Plecostomus tietensis.

Depth of body $4\frac{3}{5}$ in the length, length of head $3\frac{1}{5}$. Depth of head $1\frac{2}{3}$ in its length, breadth of head 1, length of snout $1\frac{3}{4}$, diameter of eye $6\frac{2}{3}$, interorbital width $2\frac{2}{3}$. Length of mandibular ramus $2\frac{1}{2}$ in the interorbital width. Barbel $\frac{3}{4}$ the diameter of eye. Snout broad, rounded; supraorbital margins slightly raised; supraoccipital without median ridge, nearly flat; temporal plates not carinate. Scutes spinulose, not carinate, 27 in a longitudinal series, 7 between dorsal and adipose fin, 14 between anal and caudal. Supraoccipital bordered posteriorly by a median scute and by one on each side. Lower surface of head and abdomen naked, except for a granular strip between the bases of the pectorals. Dorsal I 7, the first ray $\frac{4}{5}$ the length of head, when laid back reaching a little beyond the base of the last ray, which is $\frac{3}{5}$ as long; length of base of dorsal equal to its distance from posterior part of spine of adipose fin. Anal I 4. Pectoral extending to anterior $\frac{1}{3}$ of ventral. Caudal slightly and obliquely emarginate. Caudal peduncle 3 times as long as deep. Upper part of head with dark stripes or vermiculations; body with dark spots; fins with dark cross-bars or series of spots.

One specimen, 160 mm. in total length, from the Rio Tiete, São Paulo, Brazil.

This species is nearest to *P. Vaillanti*, Steind., but is very distinct.

Plecostomus paulinus.

Depth of body $5\frac{1}{4}$ in the length, length of head $3\frac{1}{3}$. Depth of head $1\frac{4}{5}$ in its length, breadth of head nearly 1, length of snout $1\frac{4}{5}$, diameter of eye 6, interorbital width 3. Length of mandibular ramus $1\frac{2}{5}$ in the interorbital width. Barbel nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ the diameter of eye. Snout broad, obtuse; supra-orbital edges slightly raised; supraoccipital with slight median elevation; temporal plates not carinate. Scutes spinulose, not carinate, 25 in a longitudinal series, 6 between dorsal and adipose fin, 13 between anal and caudal. Supraoccipital entirely bordered posteriorly by a single scute. Lower surface of head and abdomen partly covered with granular scales; a median naked area behind the mouth, and a large naked area at the base of each ventral, extending forwards and confluent anteriorly with that of the other side. Dorsal I 7, the first ray $\frac{5}{6}$ the length of head, when laid back extending slightly beyond the base of the last, which is $\frac{2}{3}$ as long; length of base of dorsal equal to its distance from posterior part of spine of adipose fin. Anal I 4. Pectoral spine extending to anterior $\frac{1}{3}$ of ventral. Caudal slightly and obliquely emarginate. Caudal peduncle 3 times as long as deep. Uniformly olivaceous, fins dusky.

A single specimen, 160 mm. in total length, from the Rio Piracicaba, São Paulo, Brazil.

Allied to *P. latirostris*, Regan.

Plecostomus Hermannii.

Depth of body about 5 in the length, length of head $3\frac{1}{5}$. Depth of head $1\frac{2}{3}$ in its length, breadth of head nearly 1, length of snout $1\frac{4}{5}$, diameter of eye about 6, interorbital width $2\frac{2}{3}$. Length of mandibular ramus $1\frac{5}{8}$ in the interorbital width. Barbel nearly equal to the diameter of eye. Snout moderately narrowed anteriorly; supraorbital edges not raised; supraoccipital nearly flat; temporal plates not carinate. Scutes spinulose, not carinate, 26 in a longitudinal series, 6 between dorsal and adipose fin, 13 between anal and caudal. Supraoccipital entirely bordered posteriorly by a single scute. Lower surface of head and abdomen in great part covered with small granular scales, with a naked area at the base of each ventral. Dorsal I 7, the first ray nearly equal to the length of head, when laid back extending a little beyond the base of the last, which is $\frac{1}{2}$ as long; length of base of dorsal equal to its distance from the tip of spine of adipose fin. Anal I 4. Pectoral spine bristly, extending to

anterior $\frac{1}{3}$ of ventral. Caudal slightly and obliquely emarginate. Caudal peduncle $2\frac{3}{5}$ as long as deep. Traces of dark spots on the upper surface of the head. Dorsal fin with the posterior part of each interradi al membrane dusky.

One specimen 240 mm. in total length, from the Rio Piracicaba, São Paulo, Brazil.

This species is closely allied to *P. Garmani*, Regan. I have named it after my father, Dr. H. von Ihering.

LXXVI.—*Description of a new Snake from Venezuela.*

By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

Leptognathus latifrontalis.

Body strongly compressed. Eye large, its diameter once and a half its distance from the oral border. Rostral a little broader than deep, just visible from above; internasals two thirds the length of the præfrontals; frontal slightly broader than long, as long as its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; nasal divided, the posterior part fused with the loreal, which enters the eye; a single præocular; two postoculars; temporals 2+3 or 2+4; eight or ten upper labials, third, fourth, and fifth, or fourth, fifth, and sixth entering the eye; first lower labial in contact with its fellow behind the symphysial; three pairs of chin-shields, anterior as long as broad. Scales in 15 rows, vertebrals enlarged and a little broader than long. Ventrals 19 $\frac{1}{2}$; anal entire; subcaudals 95. Reddish brown above, with darker cross-bands broader than the spaces between them; lower parts pale brown, speckled with whitish.

Total length 800 mm.; tail 220.

A single female specimen collected at Aricaqua, 1000 m. altitude, by Sr. Briceño.

LXXVII.—*A new Cavernularid from Ceylon.*

By JAMES J. SIMPSON, M.A., University of Aberdeen.

[Plate XVII.]

THE collection of Aleyonarians made by Professor W. A. Herdman, D.Sc., F.R.S., in Ceylon Seas (1902) included a small specimen of much interest which was overlooked in the report by Prof. J. Arthur Thomson and Mr. W. D. Henderson